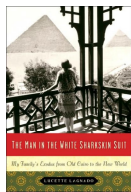


TORAH FUND BOOK CLUB

January 16, 2010



***The Man in the White Sharkskin Suit* by Lucette Lagnado**

Lucette Lagnado's father Leon is a successful Egyptian businessman and boulevardier who makes deals and trades at Shepherd's Hotel and at the dark bar of the Nile Hilton. After the fall of King Farouk and the rise of the Nasser dictatorship, Leon loses everything and his family is forced to flee, abandoning a life once marked by beauty and luxury to plunge into hardship and poverty. A vivid, heartbreaking, and powerful inversion of the American dream, this unforgettable memoir is a sweeping story of family, faith, tradition, tragedy, and triumph set against the stunning backdrop of Cairo, Paris, and New York.

FURTHER READING

Available in the Maxwell Abbell Library

BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR:

***Out of Egypt: A Memoir* by André Aciman**

The son of a flamboyant Jewish clan recounts his family's move to turn-of-the-century Alexandria, its many colorful members, its pursuit of wealth and happiness, and its struggles with anti-Semitic and anti-Western nationalism. See also: *False Papers* (824).

***Too Rich: The High Life and Tragic Death of King Farouk* by William Stadiem**

Chronicles the decadent life of Egypt's King Farouk and charts his decline from the great political hope of the Middle East to a despised ruler overthrown in 1952.

***Journey from the Land of No: A Girlhood Caught in Revolutionary Iran* by Roya Hakakian**

An Iranian American poet recounts her life as a daughter of Jewish parents growing up in Tehran, during which she witnessed the impact of the Ayatollah Khomeini's return to the nation and contemplated political asylum.

***Nasser: The Last Arab* by Saïd K. Aburish**

A portrait of late Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser considers the dilemmas that marked his rule, including his alliance with the Soviet Union despite his anti-Communist views and the military buildups that contrasted with his preference to avoid war.

***Memories of a Lost Egypt: A Memoir with Recipes* by Colette Rossant**

A James Beard Award-winning journalist presents a combination memoir and cookbook in which she describes growing up in French colonial Egypt and presents a richly exotic collection of recipes that blend a variety of cultural influences.

***My Father's Paradise: A Son's Search for His Jewish Past in Kurdish Iraq* by Ariel Sabar**

A journalist describes his father's birth into an isolated community of Kurdish Jews, their emigration to Israel in the 1950s, the disappearance of the ancient culture and language of the Kurdish Jews, and his and his father's journey to postwar Iraq to uncover the vanished history of a people and place.

***Dream Homes: From Cairo to Katrina, An Exile's Journey* by Joyce Zonana**

Chronicles the author's quest to find a sense of home among people, foods, and places as far from her native Cairo as Oklahoma and Katrina-stricken New Orleans.

FICTION:

***Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith* by Gina B. Nahai**

An epic tale blending Persian and Jewish cultures travels from the Tehran's Jewish ghetto, through Turkish whorehouses, to Los Angeles as Lili, with the help of Aunt Miriam the Moon, searches for her magical mother Roxanna the Angel. See also: *Cry of the Peacock* and *Caspian Rain*.

***The Septembers of Shiraz* by Dalia Sofer**

Their serene villa life devastated by a wrongful imprisonment, the wife and children of Tehran gentleman Isaac Amin face potential betrayals within their own household and eventually plan a dangerous escape.

DVDs:

The Forgotten Refugees: A Film about the Mass Exodus of Jews from Arab Countries and Iran in the 20th Century

Explores the history and destruction of Middle Eastern Jewish communities using extensive testimony of refugees from Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Iraq, dramatic archival footage of rescue missions, historic images of exodus and resettlement, and analyses by contemporary scholars.

Monsieur Ibrahim

Screen legend Omar Sharif is Monsieur Ibrahim, an elderly widower who owns a grocery store in a shabby, working-class section of Paris. His life takes on new meaning when he befriends Momo, a lonely Jewish teen-aged boy. In French with subtitles.